

Street dedicated to Fort Meade's 'Old Soldier'

By **Melanie Casey**
Editor

The "Old Soldier" has a home in Heritage Park.

Retired Sgt. Maj. Ray Moran's name became a permanent fixture Monday when a street bearing his name was dedicated during a ceremony at the Heritage Park Neighborhood Center.

Moran "embodies the spirit that symbolizes Fort Meade and those who have served here," said Installation Commander Col. Kenneth O. McCreedy, who spoke at the ceremony. "You don't have to know him long to know his enthusiasm, dedication and patriotism. It's entirely appropriate that this street be named after him."

Picrnie Military Housing presented a plaque to Moran and his wife, Barbara, which listed Moran Street's first residents — all of whom are junior noncommissioned officers — during the event.

"I'm humbled," Moran, 78, said of the honor. "I never dreamed of this 60 years ago when I enlisted."

Members of Moran's family — including his wife, Barbara, their three

children and four of their grandchildren — attended the ceremony.

"My dad genuinely cares about Soldiers and supporting them," said Moran's son, Rich. "There's nothing more important to him than Soldiers and the care the military provides."

Rich Moran's wife, Vickie, called the honor "wonderful. ... Fort Meade means so much to the family."

The majority of street signs in Picrnie's residential housing areas are named after historic figures and organizations such as military units, Medal of Honor recipients and distinguished service members from a particular period in military history, said Heather Lettow, Picrnie communications manager.

In Heritage Park, most street names have been dedicated to notable service members who were stationed on Fort Meade. Moran Street is the only street that Picrnie has named after a living service member, Lettow added.

During construction of the new neighborhood, Fort Meade Residential Communities Initiative Project Manager retired Col. Tom White suggested Moran's name

for the sign when he realized there was a shortage of street names. "He has done so much for the community," White said. "Ray is the strongest supporter of Fort Meade that I know."

Picrnie Program Director Mike Steiner said he was happy to oblige. "I'm pleased to be a part of that history," he said at the dedication ceremony.

Moran first came to Fort Meade in 1951 after serving in Korea, and has been back and forth to the installation over the span of his nearly 60-year military career. The bulk of his service has been dedicated to recruiting, a capacity in which he continues to serve — as the honorary command sergeant major of the 1st Recruiting Brigade, Baltimore Recruiting Battalion.

Moran and his wife last lived on Fort Meade in the early 1970s, when they resided on Doyle Street. The couple moved to nearby Odenton in 1978.

"When we lived here, we said this was our home," Barbara Moran said. "It is the most beautiful post in the Army."